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Chinese Taboos - Chopsticks

China has a variety of different etiquette standards and taboos that any foreigner must know if they would want to travel to China. Some of these unspoken rules surround chopsticks. It is expected in China for everyone to use chopsticks, so it is best to learn how to use them. For example, it is considered bad luck to leave chopsticks sticking straight out of a bowl. Chinese people only do this at funerals, and it looks like the burning of incense sticks, also only done for the dead. Furthermore, rubbing chopsticks together is thought to be rude, as people do this to break off the wooden shards on them. By doing this, you are implying to the chef that his chopsticks are cheap. Also, it is not polite to point your chopsticks at someone; it looks like accusing them. Not to mention, it is bad manners to hit chopsticks on the bowl, plate, or dish, since it is thought for only beggars to do this asking for meals. Except for rare circumstances, stabbing or impaling the food with the chopsticks is not the proper way to eat and is frown upon. “Grave-digging” as it is called, is searching through the dish using chopsticks as it is bad form. Finally, elders are usually the first to use their chopsticks at the beginning of the meal.

Works Cited

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